THE 10-4

A Newsletter Of The Cranston Police Department Retiree Association

FOUNDER and HONORARY PRESIDENT – RICO MACCARONE



September, 2026

MEAASGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

TOGETHER WE SERVED

TOGETHER WE REMEMBER



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Financial Information	2
Officers/ Board Members	2
Police Tales from Yesterday	2
Vintage Photos	3
Vintage Photos	4
Attention to Orders	4

Remembering Our Brothers In Arms

For those that do not receive our emails, it is with great sadness that I notify you of the recent passing of seven Cranston Police Retirees.

Off. Vito Antonucci—Passed: Feb. 4, 2026

Sgt. Ralph Palmieri—Passed: Feb. 7, 2026

Off. Charles Steele—Passed: March 19, 2026

Det. Paul Trainor—Passed: May 2, 2026

Det. Tom Gaulin—Passed: June 13, 2026

Det. Sgt. Mike Gates—Passed: July 14, 2026

Off. Fred Simmons—Passed: July 25, 2026

Rest in peace our brothers and know that we will never forget the sacrifices and dedication you brought forth in performing your duties for the city of Cranston.

Meeting Minutes Recap

Prior to our annual CPDRA Business Meeting which was held on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, a financial review was conducted for the calendar year 2025.

In attendance were all officers and a majority of board members who were provided with copies of all deposit slips, receipts, checks, specific bank statements, and a 2025 CPDRA financial sheet.

For the end of calendar year 2025, the CPDRA collected $1,750.00 in dues while accounts payable equaled **$612.83**. Our net gain was $1,137.17 for year 2025. Subsequently, all officers and board member in attendance approved this reviewed.

After briefly reviewing this process with those in attendance, the Treasurer provided his financial report. As of the date of this meeting, there was $1,845.75 in savings and $11,889.14 in checking for a total of $13,734.89 in total assets. The Treasurer's report was accepted and approved.

Since there were no nominations for any officer positions, there will be no change for the next three years.

After discussing the possibility of investing a portion of our funds in a CD, it was decided by officers and board members to decline this option as a non profit organization. Presently we will rely on our dues donations to fund the CPDRA expenditures.

I briefly spoke about the recent renovations to our Police Memorial and reminded everyone that CPDRA funds were not used for any improvement. For anyone who has not visited the memorial lately, please stop by and see the new CPD Police K-9 memorial. It is quite amazing.

Finally, it was discussed on the need for new members; recent and past retirees. Unfortunately the cost of our memorial engraving is going up every year and our membership is gradually declining. One suggestion was for me to contact the department's Union President and speak at their next IBPO meeting. Hopefully our active officers can assist us in reaching out to recent retirees to join the CPDRA.

Folks, not only am I asking you for your dues each year, but to also help us to increase our membership. Presently I do not know what our future brings without new members.

Honorary President:
Rico Maccarone

President:
Peter Sepe

Vice President:
James Perry

Secretary:
Gertrude Fitta

Treasurer:
Mark Sepe

Managing Editor, 10-4
James Ignasher

Board Members:
Richard Gallo
Gary Nottarianni
Vincent McAteer Sr.
Floyd Smith

Printing:
Staples, Warwick, RI

CPDRA Finances to Date:

Savings: $1,845.75
Checking: $11,814.14

CPDRA Expenditures Since Last Meeting:

**** Wreath for CPD Memorial: $173.20***

**** 2026 Annual Report Fee for RI.: $20.00***

**** Memorial Engraving: $705.00***

DUES REMINDER:

PLEASE SEND YOUR 2026 DUES TO:
CPDRA
374 CONGDON HILL RD
SAUNDERSTOWN, RI 02874



Police Tales From Yesteryear

In May of 1848, former Providence county sheriff Richard Knight was attacked and robbed of $400 while walking along a footpath near Fenner's Ledge in Arlington. His assailants left him for dead, and when they returned awhile later were surprised to find him still alive. They debated shooting him, but feared alerting people in nearby homes. After beating him some more they again left him for dead. Knight was evidently a strong and determined man for he found the strength to crawl to a nearby home for help.

On June 23, 1884, Cranston's chief law enforcement officer, Town Sergeant John Bigbee, responded to a house of ill repute located on Reservoir Ave. at the Providence line for a report of a shooting.

The establishment was described in the press as, "what may be justly termed one of the lowest of the many low houses which flourish on the roads leading from the city."

A man named Andrews had come to the house and got into an argument with a woman he was acquainted with. When things got physical she shot him the upper thigh near the groin. He then fled to Providence where he encountered a Providence officer.

Meanwhile, those at the house denied any knowledge of a shooting, but Bigbee got to the heart of the matter and the shooter was arrested and held in the bridewell at the Cranston Print Works, charged with attempted murder.

As a point of fact, the man she'd shot was reportedly no stranger to the criminal justice system either.

On July 4, 1915, four men stole a car in Auburn. When spotted by Cranston officers they fled, and a high speed chase ensued through the city streets which ended with their surrender when the officers opened fire on the fleeing vehicle.

The Thanksgiving holiday of 1915 was a busy one for the CPD.

Four men were arrested for attempting to rob the Cranston Box Co.

Officers responded to a house on Oxford St. for a report of a man who'd attempted to kill his sister when he fired a pistol at her. He missed.

In another incident, a man was arrested for robbing a milkman on Phenix Avenue.

On September 10, 1916, Patrolman Charles Smith was found dead directly in front of the old Cranston Police Station. Death was due to natural causes.

Smith was one of the original ten full-time patrolmen when the police department was established under city charter in 1910, and he'd served as a constable for many years before that. He's buried in the Pocasset Cemetery.

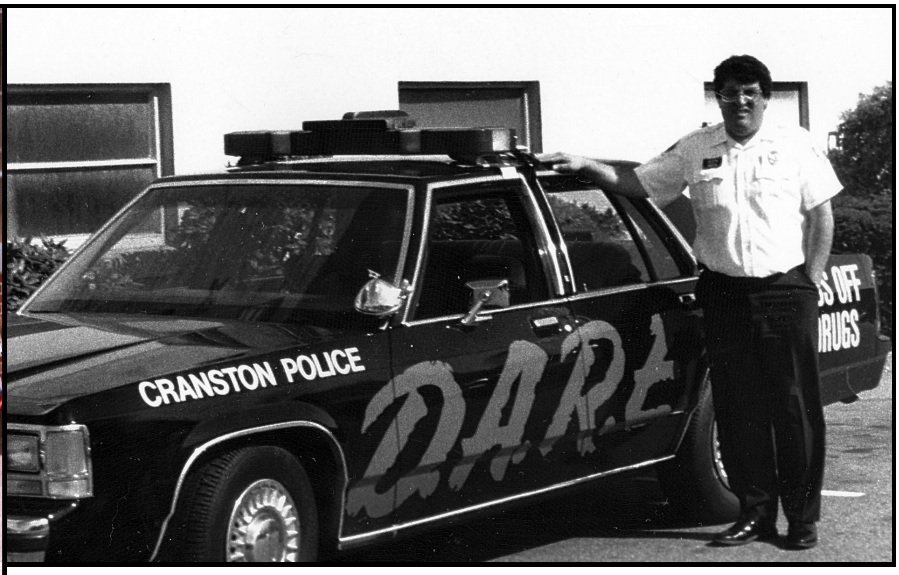


Ptl. Charles Smith

On a hot August night on 1917, Inspector Jim Miller and Lieutenant Clay DeBow parked a "bait car" to apprehend a potential thief working the area.
Their patience paid off, and apprehended a man attemting to steal a tire off the vehicle. He was convicted and give 90 days in jail.

Photos From The "Way Back" Machine



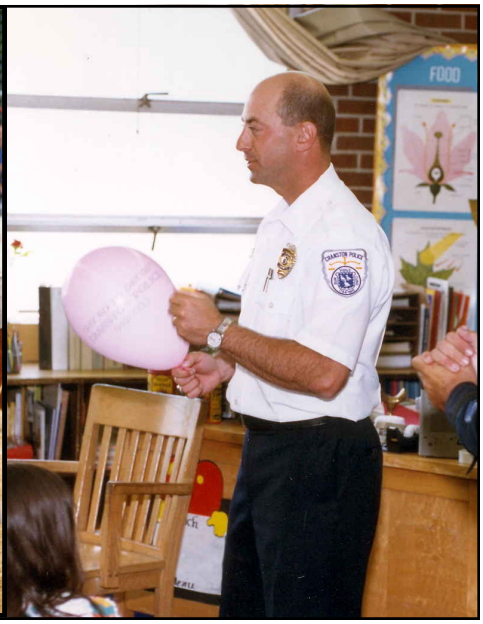


Above: Tom Fazio—Cranston's first D.A.R.E. officer.
Left: Tim Sanders—1993



Bill Remington



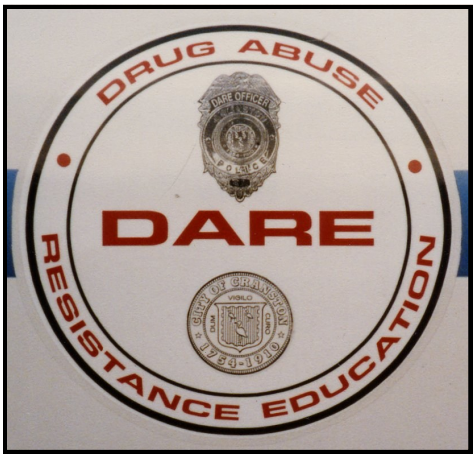


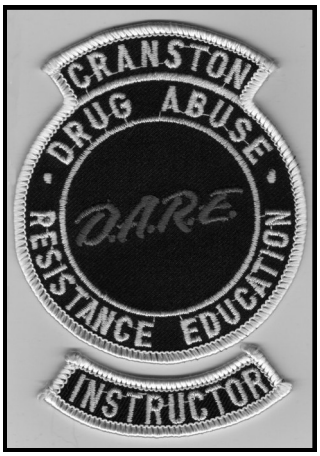
Jeff Duclos, McGruff, and Charles Jones



Carmine Giarrusso







Send us your photos and we'll publish them!

"Attention to Orders" - NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN

In each issue of the 10-4 Newsletter, we take the opportunity to honor those CPD members who are no longer with us, and who continually placed their lives on the line to serve and protect the citizens of Cranston, R.I.

Sadly, since publication of the February, 2026, 10-4 newsletter, seven former Cranston officers have passed on.



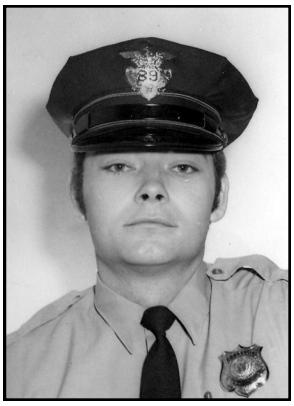
Off. Vito Antonucci
February 4, 2026



Sgt. Ralph E. Palmieri,
February 7, 2026



Off. Charles Steele
March 19. 2026



Det. Paul Trainor
May 2, 2026



Det. Thomas Gaulin
June 13, 2026



Det. Sgt. Michale Gates
July 14, 2026



Off. Fred Simmons
July 25, 2026

May They Rest In Peace

